

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3253

To study and improve the air quality inside school buses, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 12, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. STARK, and Mr. LIPINSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To study and improve the air quality inside school buses,  
and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Healthy School Bus  
5       Act of 2005”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds as follows:

1           (1) Although air pollution is a health hazard for  
2           people of all ages, children are potentially more vul-  
3           nerable because their lungs are still developing and  
4           they breathe 50 percent more air per pound of body  
5           weight than adults.

6           (2) Diesel exhaust is considered to be a prob-  
7           able human carcinogen by the Environmental Pro-  
8           tection Agency and the World Health Organization  
9           and contains a high concentration of fine particles  
10          and 40 compounds that are listed as hazardous air  
11          pollutants by the California Environmental Protec-  
12          tion Agency.

13          (3) Fine particles from diesel exhaust have been  
14          implicated as a potential cause of heart disease, res-  
15          piratory disease, and stroke.

16          (4) Diesel exhaust aggravates asthma, a disease  
17          that affects approximately 4.5 million American chil-  
18          dren in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

19          (5) Nearly 24 million children in the United  
20          States spend an average of an hour and a half each  
21          day in a school bus.

22          (6) Because of the protection school buses pro-  
23          vide in the event of a crash, they are the safest way  
24          for children to travel to school.

1           (7) The Environmental Protection Agency's  
2       Clean School Bus USA program, designed to help  
3       school districts replace aging bus fleets or install  
4       pollution control equipment, received nearly \$60 mil-  
5       lion in proposals, but could only award \$10 million  
6       in grants.

7           (8) Recent studies have indicated that the con-  
8       centration of diesel exhaust inside a school bus can  
9       be considerably higher than in the ambient environ-  
10      ment, and that some, if not most, of that pollution  
11      may be coming from the bus itself.

12          (9) Although activities designed to curtail emis-  
13      sions from the tailpipes of school buses appear to  
14      have a positive effect on the air quality inside the  
15      bus cabin, it is not clear how pollution enters the  
16      cabin or what the best strategies are for combating  
17      such pollution.

18   **SEC. 3. STUDY OF AIR QUALITY INSIDE SCHOOL BUSES.**

19      (a) STUDY.—The Administrator of the Environ-  
20      mental Protection Agency shall—

21          (1) conduct a study on the air quality inside  
22      school buses; and

23          (2) not later than 12 months after the date of  
24      the enactment of this Act, submit a report to the  
25      Congress on the results of such study.

1 (b) STRATEGIES.—The Administrator of the Envi-  
2 ronmental Protection Agency shall—

3 (1) develop strategies for improving the air  
4 quality inside school buses;

5 (2) conduct or support research to evaluate the  
6 effectiveness of such strategies; and

7 (3) not later than 15 months after the date of  
8 the enactment of this Act, submit a report to the  
9 Congress describing such strategies and the results  
10 of such research.

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
12 authorized to be appropriated \$750,000 to carry out this  
13 section.

14 **SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CLEAN SCHOOL BUS**  
15 **USA PROGRAM.**

16 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Admin-  
17 istrator of the Environmental Protection Agency  
18 \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and each subsequent fis-  
19 cal year to carry out activities, including expansion of the  
20 Clean School Bus USA program, to reduce the amount  
21 of air pollution emitted by school buses and to improve  
22 the air quality inside of school buses.

23 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

24 It is the sense of the Congress that local educational  
25 agencies and schools—

- 1           (1) should assign less polluting buses to the
- 2           longest school bus routes; and
- 3           (2) should adopt and implement policies to de-
- 4           crease school bus idling.

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